

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A log transmission device that transmits a log to a management server at every preset log transmission timing, said log transmission device comprising:

5           a log storage control module that stores a log generated after a previous log transmission timing into a log storage module;

              a log transmission timing specification module that determines whether a current time is a log transmission timing;

10          and

              a log transmission control module that, when said log transmission timing specification module determines that the current time is a log transmission timing, sends the log stored in said log storage module to the management server,

15          wherein said log storage control module divides a job into multiple sections and stores a log relating to the job into said log storage module on completion of every one divisional section of the job, when a predetermined job division condition is fulfilled.

20          2. A log transmission device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said log storage control module stores a log relating to a job into said log storage module on completion of the whole job when a next job transmission timing does not come before

completion of the job, while dividing a job into multiple sections and storing a log relating to the job into said log storage module on completion of every one divisional section of the job when the next job transmission timing comes before  
5 completion of the job.

3. A log transmission device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said log storage control module determines whether an expected end time of a job estimated according to contents of the job comes to or after the next log transmission timing,  
10 in order to determine whether the next job transmission timing comes before completion of the job.

4. A log transmission device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said log storage control module determines whether an execution start time of a job is within a preset approaching range, which is close to the next log transmission timing, in  
15 order to determine whether the next job transmission timing comes before completion of the job.

5. A log transmission device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said log storage control module stores a log relating 20 to a print job into said log storage module on completion of the whole print job when a next job transmission timing does not come before completion of the print job, while storing a log relating to a print job into said log storage module on

completion of every one page included in the print job when the next job transmission timing comes before completion of the print job.

6. A log transmission device in accordance with claim  
5, wherein said log storage control module determines whether an expected end time of a print job estimated according to a volume of print data included in the print job comes to or after the next log transmission timing, in order to determine whether the next job transmission timing comes before completion of  
10 the print job.

7. A log transmission device in accordance with claim  
5, wherein said log storage control module determines whether an expected end time of a print job estimated according to a paper size and a number of pages to be printed in the print  
15 job comes to or after the next log transmission timing, in order to determine whether the next job transmission timing comes before completion of the print job.

8. A log transmission device in accordance with claim  
1, said log transmission device being mounted on a network  
20 printer.

9. A log transmission device in accordance with claim  
1, said log transmission device being mounted on a network computer that outputs a printing instruction to a printer.

10. A log transmission device in accordance with claim  
1, wherein the log includes job identification information for  
identifying a job related to the log.

11. A log transmission device in accordance with claim  
5 1, wherein said log transmission control module sends the log  
to a management server, which evaluates validity of a contract  
made by a dealer with a registered user to permit the use of  
multiple apparatuses with said log transmission device mounted  
thereon for a predetermined time period at a flat rate.

10 12. A log transmission method that transmits a log to  
a management server at every preset log transmission timing,  
said log transmission method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a log generated after a previous log  
transmission timing into a log storage module;

15 (b) determining whether a current time is a log  
transmission timing; and

(c) sending the log stored in said log storage module  
to the management server, when it is determined in step (b)  
that the current time is a log transmission timing,

20 wherein said step (a) divides a job into multiple  
sections and stores a log relating to the job into said log  
storage module on completion of every one divisional section  
of the job, when a predetermined job division condition is

fulfilled.

13. A log transmission method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said step (a) stores a log relating to a job into said log storage module on completion of the whole job when 5 a next job transmission timing does not come before completion of the job, while dividing a job into multiple sections and storing a log relating to the job into said log storage module on completion of every one divisional section of the job when the next job transmission timing comes before completion of 10 the job.

14. A log transmission method in accordance with claim 13, wherein said step (a) determines whether an expected end time of a job estimated according to contents of the job comes to or after the next log transmission timing, in order to 15 determine whether the next job transmission timing comes before completion of the job.

15. A log transmission method in accordance with claim 13, wherein said step (a) determines whether an execution start time of a job is within a preset approaching range, which is 20 close to the next log transmission timing, in order to determine whether the next job transmission timing comes before completion of the job.

16. A log transmission method in accordance with claim

13, wherein said step (a) stores a log relating to a print job  
into said log storage module on completion of the whole print  
job when a next job transmission timing does not come before  
completion of the print job, while storing a log relating to  
5 a print job into said log storage module on completion of every  
one page included in the print job when the next job  
transmission timing comes before completion of the print job.

17. A log transmission method in accordance with claim  
12, wherein the log includes job identification information  
10 for identifying a job related to the log.